

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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January 13, 2000 LB 480

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Stuhr, on the advancement of LB 480.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. This, too, has been a difficult issue for me. Last year I did not support the issue because of several concerns that have been voiced. I shared a concern the same as Senator Pederson. But after much study and hearing the debate, I am changing my position to support of this bill. I feel that we do need to put more emphasis on women's health issues. I commend Health and Human Services for doing what they have already done in this area and that is adding some additional support, which I think will be helpful in this initiative and actually will probably reduce the fiscal note that has been on the bill because of the direction that they have been going. I believe that we do need to focus on women's issues. This has always been my concern, but, as I said, I did share the concern of duplication of services, but I do think that we need to emphasize very much this issue and the fact that women do make up 52 percent of the population. They are the caregivers. I, myself, was a caregiver for my aged parents and many women find themselves in that position, which leads to actually deteriorating their health without them realizing it. So, again, I am supporting this issue because I believe that we need to put more emphasis that we can work better actually with the resources that Health and Human Services has, and I also would ask for your support. And I do want to thank Senator Schimek for all of the work that she has done in doing the amendment. The amendment helped very much to persuade me to vote for this, this year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Schimek, to close on the advancement of LB 480.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the body, thank you so much for the discussion and thank you so much for consideration of this issue. To me, it is a very, very important issue and I guess I would like to thank the many, many people who have worked on this for, really, for two years, both inside the body and outside the body, as well as my own staff, who've spent a great deal of time on this issue. Keep in mind these five points about this bill: LB 480 would provide a state